

Four Profiles

A close-up look at four graduates who are making their mark in the world after studentdom.

Joan Berta



Luck, according to Joan (Upson) Berta (Business Administration '78), is opportunity meeting preparation.

While she can't take the credit for coming up with that line, it is a philosophy she tries to put into practice in everything she undertakes.

Joan started with Stelco in 1956 as a file clerk and left in 1960 to have a family. Since rejoining the company in 1963, she has risen from typing tax forms to Assistant Sales Manager, Rod and Bar Mill Products Division, which serves the automotive industry.

The preparations she made to take advantage of the advancement opportunities that have come her way included getting her diploma from Mohawk after six years of Part-Time Studies Business courses at night.

She bristles at the suggestion that being female might have played a role in her meteoric rise from the typing pool to marketing management in the steel industry.

"Being female hasn't helped or hindered me from doing anything in my life," she says, "except having children."

There are no major differences between

men and women in the workplace, just differences between people's job performances, says Joan.

"If I'm in a bar, there's a difference," she says. "If I'm behind a desk, there's not."

Earlier this year, Joan was honored by the Hamilton Status of Women Committee as 1983 Woman of the Year in the local business community.

She views the award with mixed emotions, however. She says she is not a militant feminist and questions whether the Women's Movement has adequately defined its goals. Rather, she suspects, the Movement picks out a controversial subject like "girlie" magazines and tries to do something in that area.

As a result, Joan says, organizations like the Status of Women Committee aren't viewed in a positive way by the public.

Joan is well-known in the Hamilton community for her volunteer work on several boards and agencies such as the United Way, the Ladies Great Ride for Cancer, the Hamilton and District Chamber of Commerce and the CANUSA Games.

She and her husband, Raymond, will be moving to Mississauga this Spring. They have four children, two each from previous marriages.

Leslie Dickey



Leslie (Lawry) Dickey (Business Administration '74) has one of the toughest jobs in the country these days — public relations for Revenue Canada.

Leslie has been with the "taxman" for about eight years, rising through the ranks from clerk to senior assessing officer to public relations officer. She joined the Public Service after a brief stint right after graduation with the Royal Bank of Canada.

Her involvement with Mohawk's Alumni development efforts was with the Alumni Association Ad Hoc Committee which worked from May to October last year drawing up the parameters for the

Association that has now been established.

Leslie was chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee's goals and structure subcommittee which drafted the objectives of the Association and proposed its basic internal and reporting structures. She also presented her subcommittee's proposals to the Students Union Corporation Board of Directors last December.

In her spare time, Leslie enjoys reading and waterskiing. But her real love is travel. Her ports of call have included Aruba, Barbados, Florida, St. Thomas and Venezuela.

Leslie has an eight-year-old son, Michael, and she and husband, Lorne, are expecting another child this spring.

The family resides on the Mountain in Hamilton.

Debbie Gaddy



Debbie (Sheehan) Gaddy (Nursing '78) is one busy gal.

When she's not on duty in the Emergency Room at Jackson Hospital in Montgomery, Alabama, she can be found at the fire station in nearby Millbrook, where she lives with her attorney husband, Charles, or fashioning a new creation in her pottery class.

Debbie is one of several Mohawk Nursing grads who headed South of the Border in the late Seventies when American hospitals were hiring Canadian Nursing graduates to fill a serious shortage in the U.S. She joined the staff of Jackson Hospital as a surgical nurse but recently moved to the Emergency Room "just to try something different."

When she and her husband moved to Millbrook 11 months ago, she immediately joined the town's Volunteer Fire Department because she wanted to get involved in her community. Shortly thereafter, she joined the department's rescue squad. To complement her nursing skills, Debbie has completed courses in advanced cardiac life support and basic trauma life support, making her an invaluable member of the squad.